NHRC Recommendations on DAM Project

2833. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Central and the State Governments to amend their rules, regulations and practices relating to acquisition of land for economic development of Projects;

(b) whether the Commission has also made recommendations for rehabilitation of the dam affect persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far on these recommedations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in its report (vide para 20) prepared in connection with the complaint received from national alliance of people's movement relating to the condition of oustees of bargi dam in Madhya Pradesh, urged upon the Central Government to re-examine and appropriately amend their laws, regulations and practices in order to ensure that, when it comes to the acquisition of land for purposes related to national economic development, the provisions of the constitution as expounded by the Supreme Court and as contained in international instruments to which India is a party, notably ILO Convention 107, are fully respected in the said report the Commission indicated the responsibility of the State to protect the interest of the dam affected persons. The Union Government is actively considering for formulation of a national policy and guidelines for rehabilitation and resettlement of families affected on account of compulsory acquisition of land.

New Rural Employment Programme During 1997-98

2834. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include some new rural employment programme under IRDP during the current financial year i.e. 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) IRDP is an ongoing 'Plan' programme in implementation since 1980. A new centrally sponsored scheme called the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) has been launched with effect from 1.2.1997. For the current year, the Scheme will, however be implemented as a sub-scheme of the IRDP although, with effect from the next financial year, it will be an independent scheme with separate budgetary allocations. The objective of the scheme is to provide irrigation through exploitation of ground water (bore wells and tube wells) to individuals and groups of small and marginal farmers living below poverty line. The assistance to be provided would be a mix of subsidy by government and term credit by financial institutions. Special safeguards by way of earmarking of 50% of the total funds have been provided for the SCs/STs. The funding pattern will be 80-20 between the Central Government and the State Government.